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JOURNAL

OF THE

New York Entomological Society.

Publishes articles relating to any class of the subkingdom Arthropoda, subject to the acceptance of the Publication Committee. Original communications in this field are solicited.

EDITORIAL.

IN the course of some remarks on the synonymy and classification of the Noctuidæ, which we print in this issue, Dr. John B. Smith calls attention to certain violations of the rule "once a synonym, always a synonym" and protests, somewhat too mildly we think, against the practice. We are in entire agreement with Dr. Smith in this case, but would insist more strongly upon the point. The use of a certain combination of generic and specific names should preclude the subsequent use of the same combination in any other sense, and a specific name once changed for this reason, cannot subsequently be resurrected, even though removed to another genus.

In another part of his remarks, Dr. Smith queries why his erroneous synonymy of *Agrotis clandestina* Harr. was followed in Bulletin 52, U. S. National Museum. We may be permitted to say, on behalf of the author of the Bulletin, that the point was overlooked. Dr. Dyar would have been pleased to correct the synonymy if he had happened to notice the error.

Again Dr. Smith argues for the retention of the letters *w* and *k* as originally used in scientific names. We are pleased to see this matter discussed, for these changes are frequently disconcerting, as Dr. Smith shows, and we hope that some excuse can be found for avoiding them. We think Dr. Smith is justified in claiming a different standing for the letter *k* than for *w*, for *k* did not occur in the old Latin alphabet and was retained in later Latin in one word at least and as an abbreviation. The whole matter rests upon the interpreta-

tion of the rule that names must be in Latin form. We certainly hope that the view may prevail that the occurrence of some generally used letters in the body of a name may be regarded not to violate the rule, even though these letters may be doubtfully found in the Latin alphabet. We would, however, advise authors who are proposing new names, to bear this matter in mind and avoid the use of those letters against which objection may be urged.

Still another matter touched on in Dr. Smith's suggestive remarks is the question of taking as the type of a genus, the first species mentioned when the type has not been fixed by the author. This method, adopted by Hampson, has likewise been used by Rothschild and Jordan in their great work on the Sphingidæ. It is, we think, the method that will ultimately come into vogue. We remark on this subject more fully in the preceding article.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 1903.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, 77th St. and 8th Avenue. President C. F. Groth in the chair with 12 members present.

Mr. George P. Engelhardt gave an account of a two week's collecting and pleasure trip in West Virginia during the month of August this year. He gave a general description of the character of the country through which they passed, and detailed some of the pleasant experiences while afoot. Some of the places visited were ideal collecting grounds and he was able to capture a number of interesting insects, which were exhibited. Among these were two males of the parasitic hymenopteron *Pelecinus polyturator*.

Mr. C. T. Brues presented a paper on "The Relations of Myrmecophilous Insects to their Host Ants." He referred especially to the factors which produce a resemblance between the ants and their guests, pointing out the fact that in the case of the blind ants the color resemblance must be due entirely to factors outside of the nest. This view is different from the one recently advocated by Wasmann.

Specimens of several species of the blind legionary ants (*Eciton*) were exhibited together with a number of their guests.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 1903.

Held at the residence of Mr. Gustav Beyer, 511 East 117th St., Tuesday evening. President C. F. Groth in the chair with 11 members in attendance.

Through Mr. Groth, Mr. A. C. Clarkson presented to the Society six bound volumes of the New York Journal (1893-1898) which belonged to his late brother.

The librarian, Mr. Schaeffer, announced the receipt of the Zoölogical Record for 1902.